

Chapter 16 – Minor Chord Phrases

In these exercises, you learn how to create chord phrases over m7 chords in your Summertime chord soloing and comping.

The bulk of this material is in the video for this chapter, as it's easier to demonstrate than to write out.

So, make sure to watch the video lesson, take some notes if needed, then come back to this PDF and dive into the exercises below when ready.

To begin, here's the A Dorian scale written out on the 1st string.

Memorize these notes to begin, as they'll be the basis for the chords you add in the upcoming exercises.

Say the notes and/or scale degrees as you play these notes to help internalize the sound, note names, and relationship to the underlying Am7 chord.

Singing along is also a great way to internalize these notes in your playing.

After you can play this Dorian scale starting on A, work it from D as well to prepare for Dm7 in the following exercises as well.

The image displays the A Dorian scale on a guitar staff and tablature. The staff is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale is written as a single line of music, starting on A4 (the first line) and ending on A5 (the second line). The notes are: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), and A5 (quarter). Below the staff is a four-line guitar tablature. The notes are represented by fret numbers: 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 2, 3, and 5. The tablature is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines, with the first measure containing the first four frets (5, 7, 8, 10) and the subsequent measures containing the remaining frets (12, 2, 3, 5). The tablature is labeled 'TAB' on the left side.

Here are those same scale notes with a chord under every second note in the A Dorian scale.

Work these shapes over Am7, then add them to your comping and chord soloing over Summertime when ready.

From there, transpose these shapes to Dm7 and repeat that exercise.

Lastly, mix them both together as you bring these chords to your Am7 and Dm7 phrases over Summertime.

Am⁷

The image shows a musical exercise for the A minor 7th scale. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing the scale notes: A2 (whole), B2 (half), C3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (half), F#3 (half), G3 (quarter), and A3 (quarter). Below the staff are four fretboard diagrams for the T, A, B, and another T string. Each diagram shows fingerings for the notes of the scale. The T string diagrams show fingerings for A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), E (12), F# (2), G (3), and A (5). The A string diagrams show fingerings for A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), E (12), F# (2), G (3), and A (5). The B string diagrams show fingerings for A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), E (12), F# (2), G (3), and A (5). The final T string diagram shows fingerings for A (5), B (7), C (8), D (10), E (12), F# (2), G (3), and A (5).

Here are those same scale notes with a chord under each note in the A Dorian scale.

Work these shapes over Am7, then add them to your comping and chord soloing over Summertime when ready.

From there, transpose these shapes to Dm7 and repeat that exercise.

Lastly, mix them both together as you bring these chords to your Am7 and Dm7 phrases over Summertime.

Am⁷

The image displays a musical score for the Am⁷ chord in 4/4 time. The score is divided into two staves: a treble clef staff and a guitar TAB staff. The treble staff shows the notes of the chord across four measures. The guitar TAB staff provides the corresponding fret numbers for the strings.

| Measure | Notes (Treble Staff) | Fret Numbers (TAB) |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | A ₂ , C ₃ , E ₃ , G ₃ | 5, 5, 5, 5 |
| 2 | A ₂ , C ₃ , E ₃ , G ₃ | 7, 8, 9, 10 |
| 3 | A ₂ , C ₃ , E ₃ , G ₃ | 8, 8, 7, 7 |
| 4 | A ₂ , C ₃ , E ₃ , G ₃ | 10, 12, 12, 10 |